

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMCONSUL DOUALA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: BUSINESS TRAVEL: G'BAKPOMA, ARNOLD, AND VICE

PRESIDENT OF RYDER SYSTEM (TRUCKS), INC.

REF: (A) DOUALA 305; (B) BANGUI 1135; (C) LIBREVILLE 929;

(D) STATE 211692

1. AF/C OFFS MET JANUARY 31 WITH JEAN G'BAKPOMA OF O.I.C.
(OFFICE DE COMMERCE ET DE L'INDUSTRIE), THADDEUS ARNOLD,
PRESIDENT OF VERDAD, INC. AND WILLIAM C. DICKSON, VICE
PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING DEVELOPMENT, RYDER
SYSTEM TRUCKS. DISCUSSION CENTERED AROUND PENDING LIBRE-
VILLE VISIT WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4.

2. RYDER SYSTEM AND GBAKPOMA HAVE SIGNED FIVE YEAR DOLS 5
MILLION CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF GABONESE OIL AND WOOD.
GROUP PLANS TO WORK OUT FINAL ARRANGEMENT NEXT WEEK

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REGARDING VOLUME AND DELIVERY OF THE RESOURCES WITH

GOG OFFICIALS. GBAKPOMA HAS ASSURED THE GROUP THAT PRESIDENT BONGO IS AWARE OF THEIR FORTHCOMING VISIT AND WILL MEET WITH THEM. BEGIN FYI: ARNOLD IS A MARKETING ANALYST NOW REPRESENTING GBAKPOMA IN THE US. IF A SUITABLE ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE WITH THE GABONESE, GBAKPOMA WILL RECEIVE ACCORDING TO THE CONTRACT THREE PERCENT INTEREST; ARNOLD'S SHARE WOULD BE ONE PERCENT. RYDER HAS ALREADY TRANSFERRED A 5 MILLION DOLLAR LETTER OF CREDIT DRAWN ON FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK TO ARNOLD'S WASH. BANK ACCOUNT.

END FYI.

3. RYDER PLANS TO OFFER THE GABONESE TECHNICAL SERVICES IN EXCHANGE FOR RAW MATERIALS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MECHANICAL AND ENGINEERING TRAINING FIELDS. RYDER'S INTEREST IN THIS TYPE OF AN ARRANGEMENT IS A RESULT OF THE PARALYZING EFFECT THE ENERGY CRISIS HAS HAD FOR RYDER'S 48,000 TRUCK FLEET. BEGIN FYI: THOUGH NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED, RYDER PURCHASED A LOUISIANA OIL REFINERY ON JANUARY 28. THE COMPANY IS SEEKING TO PURCHASE IN THE US A MEDIUM SIZE OIL COMPANY. RYDER-GBAKPOMA CONTRACT CALLS FOR DELIVERY OF APPROXIMATELY 35 MILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL PER YEAR; THE LOUISIANA REFINERY HAS A 60,000 BARREL A DAY CAPACITY. END FYI.

4. REGARDING THE GROUP'S INTEREST IN GABONESE WOOD, ARNOLD IS INVESTIGATING GABON AS A POSSIBLE SOURCE FOR TIES FOR AMTRACK AND TELEPHONE POLES FOR ATT.

5. ARNOLD APPEARS TO BE LEGITIMATE BROKER NEWLY ARRIVED ON THE WASHINGTON SCENE. HE HAS BEEN CAUTIONED ABOUT DEALING WITH GBAKPOMA. HOWEVER, DICKSON AND ARNOLD WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR A LEGITIMATE FINANCIAL VENTURE WITH THE GOG EXCLUDING GBAKPOMA. THEY PLAN TO CALL AT THE EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL BEFORE MEETING WITH ANY GABONESE OFFICIALS. KISSINGER

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